

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image reading apparatus which includes an image reading sensor for reading an image of an original document and converting the image into an electrical signal, which
5 adjusts an optical axis of light irradiated and reflected by the original document to project the light on the image reading sensor and reads the image of the original document by the image reading sensor to convert the image into the electrical signal, wherein

10 the image reading apparatus further comprises an output value detecting mechanism which detects an output value of the image reading sensor which is varied in accordance with a deviation in the optical axis.

2. The image reading apparatus according to claim 1,
15 wherein the image reading sensor comprises a CCD sensor.

3. An image reading apparatus which includes an image reading sensor for reading an image of an original document and converting the image into an electrical signal, which
20 adjusts an optical axis of light irradiated and reflected by the original document to project the light on the image reading sensor and reads the image of the original document by the image reading sensor to convert the image into the electrical signal, wherein

the image reading apparatus further comprises an
25 output value detecting mechanism which detects an output value of the image reading sensor which is varied in accordance with a deviation in the optical axis, and
an optical axis adjusting mechanism which adjusts the

optical axis such that the output value detected by the output value detecting mechanism becomes an appropriate value.

4. The image reading apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the image reading sensor comprises a CCD sensor.

5 5. The image reading apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the optical axis adjusting mechanism comprises a mirror which reflects, in a set direction, light which is projected to the original document and reflected,

10 a fixing/supporting projection for supporting the mirror at a given position,

an optical axis adjusting screw which is provided opposed to the fixing/supporting projection and which supports the mirror together with the fixing/supporting projection, and which is screwed or loosening the screw to
15 turn the mirror such that the optical axis of the light reflected by a surface of the mirror is adjusted, and

an elastic supporting projection which abuts against a surface of the mirror opposite to the fixing/supporting projection and the optical axis adjusting screw, and which
20 elastically supports the mirror in a state in which the adjustment by the optical axis adjusting screw is permitted.

6. The image reading apparatus according to claim 3, wherein

a halogen lamp is used as a light source,
25 the image reading sensor comprises a three line CCD sensor,

the output value detecting mechanism includes a display section which displays a CCD output value,

the optical axis adjusting mechanism comprises a mirror which reflects, in a set direction, light which is projected to the original document and reflected, a fixing/supporting projection for supporting the mirror at a given position, an optical axis adjusting screw which is provided opposed to the fixing/supporting projection and which supports the mirror together with the fixing/supporting projection, and which is screwed or loosening the screw to turn the mirror such that the optical axis of the light reflected by a surface of the mirror is adjusted, and an elastic supporting projection which abuts against a surface of the mirror opposite to the fixing/supporting projection and the optical axis adjusting screw, and which elastically supports the mirror in a state in which the adjustment by the optical axis adjusting screw is permitted, and wherein

an angle of the mirror is adjusted by turning the optical axis adjusting screw of the optical axis adjusting mechanism while confirming the CCD output value on the display section, thereby adjusting the optical axis.